

## SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

September 12, 2014

Governor Jerry Brown

ATTN: Brian Putler, Deputy Legislative Secretary
Governor's Office, Legislative Unit
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 919— SALES AND USE TAXES: VETERANS: ITINERANT VENDORS • REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE •

Dear Governor Brown:

I am pleased to support Assembly Bill 919 (Williams), which enables a "qualified veteran" to receive from the state a "qualified repayment" of state and local sales taxes paid to the Board of Equalization (BOE) during the eight-year period from April 1, 2002 to April 1, 2010.

Senate Bill 809 passed in 2009 and specified that disabled veterans operating as qualified itinerant vendors are required to pay sales tax when they purchase their goods but are not required to collect and remit sales tax on their subsequent sales, as required of other retailers.

Unfortunately, SB 809 did not provide any remedy for those veterans who had been operating as itinerant vendors and had been required to remit sales tax prior to SB 809's operative date. AB 919 will give retroactive relief for sales tax payments made to the BOE between April 1, 2002, and April 1, 2010.

This bill targets a very small number of itinerant disabled veteran vendors. These veterans live on the fringe of our economy often as a direct result of their military service. AB 919 provides modest assistance to those veterans who have been required to remit sales tax, interest, and penalties to the BOE, and who lack significant assets.

This legislation, which passed both houses unanimously, is necessary to give veterans access to a benefit offered to them by a grateful state. For this reason, I respectfully request your signature on AB 919.

Sincerely,

GEORGE RUNNER
Second District